



Institute for Work & Health Strategic Research Plan 2008-2012

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On Behalf of all the Scientists at IWH

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Institute
for Work &
Health

Research Excellence
Advancing Employee
Health

Our Mission

The Institute for Work & Health *conducts* and *shares* research that protects and improves the health of working people and is valued by policy makers, workers and workplaces, clinicians and health and safety professionals.



Why A Strategic Research Plan?

- Informs and guides internal planning for scientific activities
- Creates the opportunity to exchange perspectives on valued research with stakeholders
- Helps to foster synergy between stakeholders and IWH scientific staff
- Creates a shared vision of the Institute's research directions
- Informs recruiting priorities
- Allows the Scientific Director and Scientists to effectively communicate to both the IWH Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Board of Directors (BoD)



**Annual Report to BoD
on progress against
Strategic Plan**

2009 Activity Plan



Fall Planning Retreat
Preparations for upcoming year
Use **SRP** as guide

**2008
Accomplishments
Report**

SAC Meeting
Annual report on progress
against **SRP**

**Annual Budget
Submission**



Four Types of Research Activities at IWH

1. Research Projects - formally developed research projects linked to the strategic research plan
2. Training-Related Projects - projects related to training programs that may or may not lead to research projects.
3. Strategic Collaborations - are collaborative activities with key Ontario prevention system partners that likely lead to research projects and are linked to the strategic research plan.
4. Developmental Work - work not fitting above, but linked to the strategic research plan, especially developmental work



The Institute is Organized To Foster Developing Innovative Science Based Solutions

Workforce	Prevention	Prevention &
System	of	Management
Workplace	Work-Related	of
Worker	Injury and	Work
	Illness	Disability
	Scientific Foundation Programs	
	Knowledge Transfer & Exchange Program	



Where Are We At?

1. In 2007, IWH Scientists developed and drafted a Strategic Research Plan (SRP)
2. The SRP was circulated to all IWH scientific staff for comment
3. The SRP was presented to the IWH Scientific Advisory Committee in May 2008 who endorsed the SRP
4. SRP presented to IWH Board of Directors in June 2008 who endorsed the SRP
5. Institute engaged WSIB and OHSCO in summer 2008 for comment
6. 2008-2012 Strategic Research Plan finalized in September 2008
7. Scientific planning activities for 2009 were completed in December 2008
8. Returning to public discussion of plan



Overview

- Research priorities (3), research areas (13), research foci (12)
 - Commitment to Scientific Foundation Programs as core competencies
 - Shift from clinical research to health care research
 - Emphasize workplace-based research
 - New Emphasis on research to provide solutions, support change and measure research uptake & impact
- Resource commitments aligned to priorities:
 - Expand
 - Continue
 - Develop



IWH Scientists' Top 5

- a. Changing work experiences, workplaces and workers
- b. The design and performance of primary and secondary prevention systems
- c. Worker disability course and complexity
- d. Understanding workplaces and workplace change
- e. Health, functioning and productivity



Research Priority 1: Five Research Areas

1. To generate, synthesize and share knowledge on work and health related to:
 - A. The changing nature of work and the workforce
 - B. Occupational health and safety and disability policy systems
 - C. Workplace policies, programs and practices
 - D. Work disability trajectories
 - E. Health care policies, programs and practices



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Drilling Down: The 5 Research Areas of Priority 1

- A. The changing nature of work and the workforce
 - 1. Changing work experiences, workplaces and workers
 - 2. The changing policy landscape



Drilling Down: The 5 Research Areas of Priority 1

- B. Occupational health and safety and disability policy systems
 - 1. The design and performance of primary and secondary prevention systems
 - 2. The adequacy and equity of financial supports



Drilling Down: The 5 Research Areas of Priority 1

- C. Workplace Policies, Programs and Practices
 - 1. Understanding workplaces and workplace change
 - 2. Evidence synthesis in prevention



Drilling Down: The 5 Research Areas of Priority 1

D. Work Disability Trajectories

1. Worker disability course and complexity
2. Health, functioning and productivity
3. Work disability programs



Drilling Down: The 5 Research Areas of Priority 1

- E. Healthcare Policies, Programs and Practices
 1. Organization and delivery of health services for injured workers
 2. The impact of healthcare policies, programs and practices on workers with a) MSDs, and b) mental health conditions
 3. Evidence synthesis in healthcare policies, programs and practices



Research Priority 2: Three Research Areas

2. Develop and evaluate interventions and methods for understanding, implementing and monitoring evidence-based change to improve work and health.
 - A. Providing and evaluating solutions
 - B. Bringing about and sustaining change
 - C. Developing new metrics for assessing the impact of research and its application



Research Priority 3: Five Research Areas

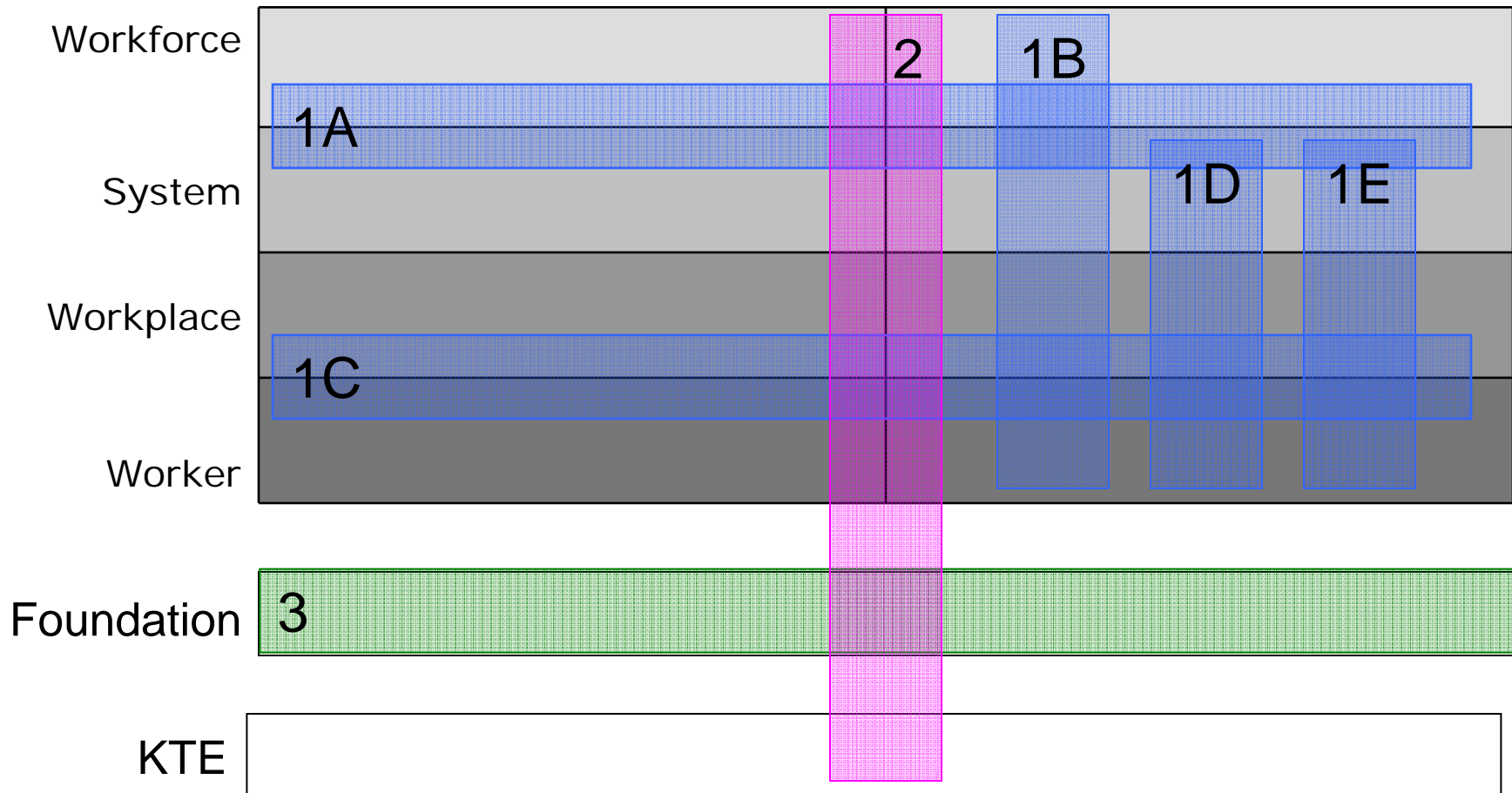
3. Continue to improve analytic, measurement and evidence synthesis methods in work and health research.
 - A. Measurement methods
 - B. Work and health data linkage
 - C. Analytic skills
 - D. Economic evaluation methods
 - E. Evidence synthesis methods



IWH Research Structure & Priorities

Prevention of Work-Related
Injury and Illness

Prevention & Management of
Work Disability





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